

Remarks/Arguments

Formal drawings are enclosed for Figs. 1 to 5 to replace previously filed informal drawings.

The substance of interview 10 Feb 2006 is that claims 1, 4, and 5 where discussed and applicant proposed to amend the claims to overcome the rejection of record. Such amendment to claims is made above and remarked below.

Claims

Claims 1-9 and 17-18 were pending in the application. Claims 1-9 and 17-18 where rejected. Claims 1 and 5 are currently amended and claims 19-21 are new. Claims 1-9 and 17-22 remain.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-5, 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carhart (U.S. 6,622,304).

Claim 1 is currently amended to add the limitation wherein a signal received at the second port is reflected out the second port and wherein all terminal devices connected to the network interface device receive the reflected signal. Support for this amendment is found in the application page 9 lines 5-6, Fig. 2 and Fig. 3. This amended distinguishes the claim from the device disclosed in Carhart, which does not reflect a signal out the port from which the signal was received. Carhart only passes the signal to another port of the device. In Carhart, all devices do not receive the reflected signal because the signal does not reflect out the port that received the signal, therefore devices in the wiring branch that originated the signal do not receive the reflected signal.

Claim 5 is currently amended to add the limitation that the network interface device reflects network signals originating in the building wiring back into all branches of the building wiring. Support for this amendment is found in the application page 7 line 32 to page 8 line 9, page 9 lines 5-6, and Fig. 2. This amended distinguishes the claim from the device disclosed in Carhart, which does not reflect the

signal to all of the wiring, namely Carhart's device does not reflect the signal back to the wiring from which the signal was received.

Claim 4 depends on amended claim 1 and includes the limitations of that claim and therefore is allowable along with claim 1.

Claims 7, 8, and 9 depend on amended claim 5 and include the limitations of that claim and therefore are allowable along with claim 5.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 2, 3, 6, 17, and 18 have been rejected based on 35 USC 103(a). In view of the amendments above to base claims 1 and 5 upon which these claims depend, these dependent claims should also be allowable.

New Claims

New claims 19-21 are dependent claims and add the limitation of an impedance mismatch used for reflecting signals. Support for these claim amendments is found in the application including at page 8 line 25 and page 9 line 8.

New independent claim 22 has been added. This claim uses the closed ended term "consisting", thus limiting the claim to a two-port device. This claim is distinguished from Carhart's device, which has at least three ports.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 1 and 5 as amended distinguish the invention from Carhart.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, and 17-21 are allowable as depending on allowable base claims 1 and 5.

Independent claim 22 is allowable as being distinguished from Carhart.

Application No. 09/910,412
Examiner/Art Unit Chowdhury/2611

If it is felt that direct communication would serve to advance prosecution of this case, the examiner is invited to call the attorney at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,

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